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II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are herein respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 10-14 are pending in the application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,574,025 to Juaire et al. ("Jualre") or alternatively U.S. Patent No. 4,457,797 to Hatchadoorian et al. ("Hatchadoorian"). Applicants traverse this rejection.

As amended, the present invention claims a method of forming a wall panel wherein the first polymer sheet is formed with a plurality of reinforcement ribs, the second polymer sheet is formed with a substantially smooth central region without ribs over a majority of the second polymer sheet, and that the first polymer sheet is knitted to the second polymer sheet at the reinforcement ribs to form the wall panel.

As seen in Juaire, the Juaire panel does not form an inner or second sheet that has a substantially smooth central region without ribs over a majority of the second polymer sheet.

The examiner has indicated that Hatchadoorian discloses a method of manufacturing a wall panel where the first and second sheets are knitted together. Particularly, the examiner references column 11, lines 49-59.

Line 55 of column 11 states that bonds are produced at contact points as shown in Fig. 14. If read alone and out of context, this sentence would appear to support the conclusion that the two sheets are knitted together. However, this sentence cannot be taken out of context and must be read in light of the rest of the patent.

The patent itself describes one process for forming the resulting panel. The panel seen in Fig. 14 is a result of the prior steps seen in Figs. 7-13, which describe the steps taken before the two sheets are driven together as shown in Fig. 14. As stated in the immediately preceding paragraph of column 11, "prior to assembly, the inside surface of either one or both sheets are coated with a suitable adhesive".

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Thus, it is clear that the resulting panel will be "bonded" by adhesive at the contact points mentioned in line 55 and not knitted as claimed.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinct over the art of record. Allowance of the claims is therefore warranted and requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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